

Message Text

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ROME FOR USDEL IOC/EC

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TAGS: AORG, WMO
SUBJECT: THE 30TH SESSION WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC),
MAY 25-JUNE 15; WRAP-UP REPORT

REF: A. GENEVA 9107; B. GENEVA 9021; C. GENEVA 8843;
D. GENEVA 8836; E. GENEVA 8662

1. SUMMARY: THE 30TH SESSION OF THE WMO EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE (EC) COMPLETED ITS AGENDA, AND IN MOST
RESPECTS, THE RESULTS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE DESIRES
OF THE US. IT APPROVED A PLAN OF ACTION FOR A WORLD
CLIMATE PROGRAM (WCP) THAT WILL BE ELABORATED AND
PRESENTED TO THE WMO CONGRESS. IT REVIEWED AND FULLY
SUPPORTED THE ACTIONS NOW GOING ON IN CONNECTION WITH
THE FIRST GARP GLOBAL EXPERIMENT AND IT GAVE ADEQUATE
SUPPORT TO OTHER TECHNICAL PROGRAMS OF PRIMARY CONCERN
TO THE US. IT DESIGNATED TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE TO FILL VACANCIES. THE TECHNICAL WORK OF THE
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COMMITTEE WAS AFFECTED SOMEWHAT BY EXCESSIVE ATTENTION
TO THE FUTURE POSITION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL (SEE
REF B). END SUMMARY.

2. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF US INTERESTS, PERHAPS
THE MAJOR DECISIONS OF THE EC WERE TO APPROVE ACTIONS
THAT WILL RESULT IN A SOUND PLAN FOR A WORLD CLIMATE

PROGRAM (WCP), TO BE ADOPTED BY THE 8TH WMO CONGRESS IN APRIL/MAY 1979. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS PROGRAM ARE DESCRIBED IN REF A. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL INVOLVE A NUMBER OF UN AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAVING MAJOR INTERESTS IN THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY. THE EC UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED DR. ROBERT WHITE AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN GENEVA, FEB 1979, AND PROVIDED FUNDS TO ENLARGE THE PARTICIPATION (UP TO 500) DURING THE FIRST HALF.

3. THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE GLOBAL WEATHER EXPERIMENT (FGGE) NOW SEEMS ASSURED, WITH MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FIELD PHASE OF THE EXPERIMENT (1978-79) FROM SOME 30 COUNTRIES AND SUPPORT IN SOME FORM FROM NEARLY ALL OF THE 140 MEMBERS OF THE WMO. THE FGGE OPERATION CENTER APPEARS TO BE IN GOOD HANDS AND WILL BE STRENGTHENED FURTHER BY THE ADDITION OF A FULL-TIME SCIENTIFIC OFFICER. A SCIENTIST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JOINT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (JOC) WILL BE IN RESIDENCE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1979 TO DEAL WITH UNEXPECTED SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE. EC RE-ESTABLISHED THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL FOR THE FGGE AND ADDED CHINA AS A FULL MEMBER IN RECOGNITION OF ITS MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS (TWO RESEARCH SHIPS) TO THE EXPERIMENT. FURTHER, THE COMMITTEE ALLOTTED \$25,000 AS A PARTIAL CONTRIBUTION

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TO THE PREPARATION OF A FGGE FILM, WHICH WOULD BE BASED IN LARGE PART ON MATERIALS PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXPERIMENT.

4. THERE WAS SOME DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE FACT THAT THE WWW PLAN HAD NOT BEEN MORE FULLY IMPLEMENTED DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS AND ALL MEMBERS WERE PRESSED TO COMPLETE THEIR PART OF THE PLAN. THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT THE PLAN FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS SHOULD BE MORE REALISTIC, AND WITHIN THE CAPABILITY OF MEMBERS TO FULFILL DURING THAT TIME PERIOD. SUGGESTIONS TO INCLUDE NEW TYPES OF STATIONS (E.G., OZONE AND SEISMOLOGICAL STATIONS) WERE REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS TO STUDY. NO NEW INITIATIVES WERE TAKEN IN THE METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE FIELD; THE EC PANEL WAS RE-ESTABLISHED WITH ESSENTIALLY THE SAME MEMBERSHIP.

5. IN THE FIELD OF HYDROLOGY, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO REFER TO MEMBERS THE PROPOSAL FOR A HYDROLOGICAL OPERATIONAL MULTI-PURPOSE SYSTEM (HOMS), AFTER REDRAFTING BY THE SECRETARIAT AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION FOR HYDROLOGY. THE NEW VERSION WOULD BE SUBMITTED

DIRECTLY TO THE WMO 8TH CONGRESS FOR ITS ACTION. THIS
WILL PROVIDE A SPEEDY DECISION ON WHAT HAS PROVED TO
BE A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE IN THE EC.

6. THE PROBLEMS OF DESERTIFICATION REFERRED TO THE
WMO BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION
(UNCOD) RESULTED IN A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION WHICH
COULD INVOLVE THE WMO IN MAJOR PROGRAM COMMITMENTS. THE
WMO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE UN CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON
DESERTIFICATION CONTROL AND IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO ARRANGE
FOR PART-TIME DETACHMENT OF A WMO STAFF MEMBER TO THE
UNEP DESERTIFICATION UNIT, PARTICULARLY DURING PERIODS

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WHEN THE WMO ASPECTS ARE UNDER ACTIVE STUDY.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CONTINUED TO BE A SIGNIFICANT
TOPIC AT THIS SESSION. THE COMMITTEE RE-ESTABLISHED
ITS PANEL OF EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD AND ADOPTED A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION. THE PLAN INCLUDES PROPOSAL,
FOR IMPROVING THE NETWORK OF BACKGROUND AIR POLLUTION
STATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR THEIR SITING, AS WELL AS PLANS
FOR MONITORING OF BACKGROUND LEVELS OF SELECTED POLLUTANTS
IN OPEN OCEAN AREAS. IT AGREED TO STUDY THE PROBLEMS
OF POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AND REQUESTED
EUROPEAN MEMBERS TO ADJUST THEIR POLLUTION MONITORING
PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN THE STUDY OF LONG-RANGE TRANSPORT

OF POLLUTANTS OVER THEIR AREA.

8. THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAMS DEALING WITH WEATHER MODIFICATION, PARTICULARLY THE PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (PEP). FINANCIAL SUPPORT WAS GIVEN FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE LAST STAGE OF THE SITE
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SELECTION PROCESS, WHICH WILL BE CONCENTRATED IN SPAIN. UNFORTUNATELY THE COMMITTEE DID NOT TACKLE THE MATTER OF ORGANIZATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC PLANNING GROUP WITHIN THE WMO SECRETARIAT. THE NEED FOR A STRONGER STAFF, REMOVED FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRICTURES OF THE SECRETARIAT RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (AS WAS DONE DURING GATE), STILL EXISTS AND MUST BE ADDRESSED SOON BY MEMBERS OF THE PEP BOARD IF THE NECESSARY MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY IS TO BE ESTABLISHED. PROPOSALS FOR INTERNATIONAL HAIL SUPPRESSION EXPERIMENTS WERE RECOGNIZED AS USEFUL BUT SHOULD NOT DIVERT RESOURCES FROM THE PEP. IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD A CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT IN CONNECTION WITH THE WMO SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON WEATHER MODIFICATION IN MID-1980. ON THE MATTER OF LEGAL ASPECTS OF WEATHER MODIFICATION, THE EC FELT THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WAS DESIRABLE, BUT CONSIDERED THAT A MEETING NEED NOT BE HELD UNTIL 1980-81 (IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE UNEP PROPOSAL THAT THIS MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN 1979).

9. ON THE METEOROLOGICAL ASPECTS OF OCEAN AFFAIRS, THE COMMITTEE CONFIRMED THE ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT BY THE PRESIDENT FOR WMO AND IOC TO SET UP A JOINT IOC/WMO WORKING COMMITTEE FOR IGOSS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, IT DECIDED TO DISSOLVE ITS PANEL OF EXPERTS ON METEOROLOGICAL ASPECTS OF OCEAN AFFAIRS. IT NOTED THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS THAT EXIST WITH THE IOC AND ASKED THE SYG TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY IOC WOULD SECOND AN OFFICER TO THE WMO. MEANWHILE, THE SECONDMENT OF A WMO OFFICER TO IOC HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS WOULD BE CONTINUED IN 1979.

10. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER WMO PROGRAMS
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DURING 1977 TOTALED \$13.7 MILLION, LESS THAN 50 OF WHICH NOW COMES FROM UNDP SOURCES. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPERTS IS ALSO DECREASING EACH YEAR. BECAUSE OF

THIS DECLINE IN ASSISTANCE FROM UNDP, MEMBERS WERE URGED TO INCREASE THEIR SUPPORT OF THE WMO VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VAP), A PROGRAM WHICH CONTINUES TO PLAY A VITAL PART IN THE COMPLETION OF THE WORLD WEATHER WATCH. ONE OF THE TRENDS THAT CAN BE SEEN FROM THE REVIEW OF THE RECENT WMO BUDGETS IS THE SHIFT TOWARD GREATER SUPPORT FOR TRAINING ACTIVITIES. THERE WAS STRONG JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS TREND IN THE EYES OF MANY OF THE MEMBERS. INADEQUATE NUMBERS OF TRAINED PERSONNEL IS STILL, AND WILL LIKELY TO BE SO FOR MANY YEARS, THE MAIN CONSTRAINT IN MODERNIZING THE WEATHER SERVICES OF LDCS, WHO ARE CONFRONTED WITH GROWING DEMANDS FOR SERVICES AND USING MORE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO TAKE THEIR PART IN THE GLOBAL WEATHER PLANS. IF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REQUIRE THIS PARTICIPATION, WAYS MUST BE FOUND TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST LDCS TO CARRY OUT THEIR ROLE.

11. TWO MAJOR BUDGET MATTERS FACED THIS SESSION OF THE EC: APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR CY 1979; AND REVIEW OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL PERIOD: 1980-83. THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP REVIEWED THE 1979 BUDGET WITH THE VIEW TO IDENTIFYING NON-ESSENTIAL EXPENDITURES IN ORDER TO REDUCE NEED TO USE THE FLEXIBILITY CLAUSE. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS' DEBATES, IN WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF REGIONS ATTEMPTED TO RETAIN PROJECTS TO WHICH THEY ATTACHED PRIORITY IMPORTANCE AND DELETE OTHERS WHICH IN THEIR VIEW WERE TO BE CONSIDERED LESS ESSENTIAL, THE WORKING GROUP (CHAIRERED BY N.E. JOHNSON, USA) AGREED ON A BUDGET WHICH REFLECTED SAVINGS OF OVER \$200 THOUSAND. HOWEVER, WHEN THE REVISED BUDGET WAS AGAIN EXAMINED BY PLENARY, SEVERAL ITEMS,

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SOME OF WHICH WERE NOT CONTAINED IN SYG'S ORIGINAL BUDGET PROPOSAL, WERE ADDED TO THE LIST OF "NECESSARY ACTIVITIES". THIS RESULTED IN A BUDGET FOR 1979 WHICH IS ONLY \$14,000 BELOW THAT PRESENTED BY THE SYG.

12. UNLIKE PAST PRACTICE, THE SYG SUBMITTED HIS PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR THE 8TH FINANCIAL PERIOD (1980-83) IN DRAFT FORM, WHICH WILL PERMIT HIM TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS BEFORE SUBMITTING IT TO THE WMO CONGRESS. MOST OF THE COMMENTS OF THE EC (WHICH WILL ALSO BE PASSED TO THE CONGRESS) REFLECT THE CONCERN OF MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE US MEMBER, THAT THE GROWTH RATE IN THE SYG'S BUDGET IS TOO HIGH, CONSIDERING THE CURRENT ECONOMIC PRESSURES NOW PLACED ON MOST MEMBERS. ALTHOUGH THE EC UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME INCREASES MAY BE NECESSARY TO MEET NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING THE NEEDS OF A NEW CLIMATE PROGRAM (REF A), THE US AND OTHERS CONSIDERED THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN STAFF TO BE TOO GREAT, PARTICULARLY IN THE HIGHER GRADES, WHERE A DOUBLING OF THE NUMBER OF D-1 AND D-2 POSTS IS PROPOSED. THE EC REQUESTED THE SYG,
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IN VIEW OF THE LOW INFLATION RATE IN SWITZERLAND, TO PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROJECTED "MANDATDRY" ANNUAL INCREASES OF 3.99 IN EXPENDITURES. SEVERAL MEMBERS ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST THE NEED FOR A WMO LIAISON OFFICE AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NYC.

13. THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS TO CHANGE THE UNIT OF ACCOUNT FOR WMO BUDGETING FROM THE US DOLLAR TO THE SWISS FRANC WAS CONSIDERED TO BE OF FAR-REACHING IMPORTANCE AND SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE WMO CONGRESS, AS IT WAS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO ALL WMO MEMBERS. ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE SYG TO CHANGE TO TWO-YEAR BUDGETING, THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT THIS WAS NOT DESIRABLE AND SHOULD NOT BE RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER

ACTION BY THE 8TH WMO CONGRESS. THE INTRODUCTION OF TWO-YEAR CYCLES MAY RESULT IN PREVENTING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FROM EXERCISING A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THE YEARLY ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS OF THE WMO.

14. THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY DESIGNATED DR. GEORGE S. BENTON (US) TO FILL THE SEAT ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEFT VACANT BY THE RESIGNATION OF DR. ROBERT M. WHITE (US); AND J.K. MURITHI (KENYA) TO FILL THE SEAT VACATED BY B.M. PADYA (MARITIUS).

15. IT FURTHER AGREED THAT ITS 31ST SESSION SHOULD BE HELD IN GENEVA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 8TH WMO CONGRESS; THAT IS, FROM MAY 29 TO JUNE 2, 1979.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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